(b) whether it is also a fact that they are not even qualifying the international standard specifications;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified such items imported into the country; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) As reported by CII, no survey of the imported food-items has been conducted in the recent period. However, CII made its observations with regard to violation of laws in respect of 123 food articles collected by PFA Department, Government of NCT, Delhi prior to October, 2000. A similar survey carried out by CII in April, 2000 indicated that items, mostly not qualifying to the ingredients permitted under PFA Act, were confectionery items, flavoured milk, drinks and fruit juices.

So far as foodgrains are concerned, no foodgrain has been imported on Government account for the last three years. However, foodgrains imported by the Government of India through STC prior to 1998 conformed/complied food laws/PPQ requirements.

Issue price of wheat

3854. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue price of wheat to flour mills in the Western zone is much higher than the issue price in the Northern zone;

(b) whether it is a fact that higher issue price leads to higher price for wheat-based products;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to reduce the issue price of wheat to flour mills;

(d) if so, whether Government have agreed to the request; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The comparative position of prices fixed for different Zones of the country during 2001-02 is as under:

Rate: Rs. Per qtl.

Zone/Period	1.3.2001 to 31.5.2001	June, 2001	July to Oct., 2001	Nov., 2001 to January, 2002
North	650*	700	650	650
South	700	700	720	720
West	700	700	695	695
East/North East	700	700	705	705

*Rates applicable to the States of M.P. and Chhattisgarh. Also made applicable to the States of Bihar and Jharkhand from 5.12.2001.

These rates were fixed after taking into account the zonal economic cost of wheat in each zone which took into account relevant factors like carrying costs, tax components and transportation charges etc.

(c) to (e) A request was received from the Gujarat Roller Mills Association in November, 2001 for release of OMSS(D) wheat at the North Zone rate. This request was examined and not accepted in view of the decision to fix State-wise rates reflecting the economic cost of wheat in each State. For the months of February, March and April, 2002, the OMSS (D) rates of wheat have been fixed State-wise after taking into account the acquisition costs and the average freight to the States. The State-wise rates fixed from February, 2002 onwards are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The state-wise rates fixed from Ferburary, 2002 onwards

North Zone *Rate per qtl. (in Rs.)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Lustre lost wheat 2001-02	Sound Wheat
1	2	3	4
1	Delhi	615	655
2	Chandigarh	615	655
3	Punjab	615	655
4	Haryana	615	655
5	Uttar Pradesh	625	665
6	Uttaranchal	625	665
7	Rajasthan	625	665
8	Himachal Pradesh	620	660
9	Jammu & Kashmir	630	670
	South Zone		
10	Tamilnadu	685	725
11	Pondicherry	685	725
12	Kerala	685	725
13	Andhra Pradesh	680	720
14	A&N Islands	690	730
15	Lakshadweep	690	730
16	Karnataka	680	720
	East Zone		
17	Bihar	640	680
18	West Bengal	660	700
19	Sikkim	665	705
20	Orissa	665	705
21	Jharkhand	650	690
	North East Zone		
22	Assam & Other NE States	675	715
	West Zone		
23	Maharashtra	655	695
24	Goa	660	700
25	Madhya Pradesh	630	670
26	Chhattisgarh	650	690
27	Gujarat	650	690
28	Daman & Diu	650	690
29	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	650	690

Issue prices of wheat fixed for open market sale scheme (domestic) for February and March 2002

North Zone — *Rate per qtl. (in Rs.)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/U.T.	Lustre lost wheat 2001-02	Sound Wheat
1	2	3	4
1	Delhi	615	655
2	Chandigarh	615	655
3	Punjab	615	655
4	Haryana	615	655
5	Uttar Pradesh	625	665
6	Uttaranchal	625	665
7	Rajasthan	625	665
8	Himachal Pradesh	620	660
9	Jammu & Kashmir	630	670
	South Zone		
10	Tamilnadu	685	725
11	Pondicherry	685	725
12	Kerala	685	725
13	Andhra Pradesh	680	720
14	A&N Islands	690	730
15	Lakshadweep	690	730
16	Karnataka	680	720
	East Zone		
17	Bihar	640	680
18	West Bengal	660	700
19	Sikkim	665	705
20	Orissa	665	705
21	Jharkhand	650	690
	North East Zone		
22	Assam & Other NE States	675	715
	West Zone		
23	Maharashtra	655	695
24	Goa	660	700
25	Madhya Pradesh	630	670
26	Chhattisgarh	650	690
27	Gujarat	650	690
28	Daman & Diu	650	690
29	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	650	690